Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra. However, NABARD also provides refinance assistance to Co-operative Banks, RRBS and Commercial Banks for forestry development. This assistance has only been provided to Maharashtra. The amount of refinance disbursement for the year 2001 - 2002 and 2002-03 is Rs. 185 lakhs and Rs. 71 lakhs respectively.

(c) Ministry of Environment and Forests has formulated Integrated Forest Protection Scheme under which financial assistantce is provided to the State Governments for protection and maintenance of forests. The details of assistance released and the utilization during the financial year 2002-03 ae as follows:

Rs. in Lakhs

State2002-2003	Funds released	Funds utilised 2002-03
Madhya Pradesh	158.50	107.22
Chhattisgarh	150.00	129.53
Maharashtra	188.92	129.74

Plantation of foreign trees

†2138. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of foreign trees, like eucalyptus have been planted throughout India during the last 15 years;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a large scale ground water depletion has taken place due to these trees;

(c) whether it is also a fact that even today only thorny, non-shady and non-fruit bearing trees are planted on the road-sides, in parks and near railway lines; and

(d) the action Government are taking to plant fruit bearing trees like eugenea, neem, mangoes etc. after getting the abovesaid trees destroyed?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. Most of the species introduced in the past belonged to the various genera of Acacia, tropical pines, Leucaena and Eucalyptus. These species do not deplete ground water. There is evidence that Eucalyptus actually uses less water per unit of biomass produced as compared to other tree species.

(c) All kinds of species are being planted on road sides, parks and near railway lines depending upon the site conditions.

(d) Planting of trees is done in different states based on the site requirements and there is no scheme in the Ministry for destroying the foreign planted trees and replacing them with fruit bearing trees.

Assistance for FPIs

2139. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the schemes under which Government provide financial assistance for the development of food processing sector;

(b) the release of financial asisstance during the last five years to the above sector, year-wise and State-wise;

(c) whether it is a fact that infrascture facilities in the food processing industries is standing as an obstacle for the growth of this industry; and

(d) if so, the steps that are being taken or proposed to be taken in this direction by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries provide financial assistance under the following Plan Schemes for the development of Food Processing Sector;

(i) Scheme for Technology Upgradation/Establishemnt/Modernisation of Food Processing Industries.

(ii) Scheme for Human Resource Development.